

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OF THE

FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

OF PHILADELPHIA AND ITS VICINITY,

FOR THE

RELIEF OF COLORED FREEDMEN.

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONTRIBUTORS, HELD
AT ARCH STREET MEETING-HOUSE.

Philadelphia, 4th Month, 15th, 1867.

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AT a Stated Meeting of THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF PHILADELPHIA AND ITS VICINITY, FOR THE RELIEF OF COLORED FREEDMEN, held 4th mo. 15, 1867 :

The Report of the Executive Board, giving a general view of their labors during the past year, was read, affording much satisfaction to the Association, and inducing an earnest expression of desire that the work in which we are engaged may continue to be prosecuted with the same zeal and discretion as heretofore. The Board now to be appointed is desired to have the Report, and such other matter as they may deem suitable, published for general circulation.

A Report from the Treasurer was laid before the meeting, showing the amount disbursed during the year to have been \$39,542.21, and a balance remaining in his hands due the Association of \$8009.76. The whole amount received by the Association since its formation has been \$207,259.83.

A highly interesting account of a recent visit to some of the Southern States, by Thomas Conard, a member of the Executive Board, furnishing a detailed statement of the number, location, and character of the school-houses and accommodations occupied by teachers in the employ of the Association, together with the number of teachers and pupils, and the general character and prospects of the schools, was read, calling forth much interesting remark, calculated to

stimulate the members to persevering efforts in extending the benefits of literary and religious education to this rising people.

The Nominating Committee reported the following named Friends as officers of the Association during the coming year :

President. Samuel Hilles.

Secretary. John B. Garrett.

Treasurer. Richard Cadbury.

Executive Board. Samuel R. Shipley, Marmaduke C. Cope, Anthony M. Kimber, Benj. Coates, Wm. Evans, Jr., James Whittall, Elliston P. Morris, J. Wistar Evans, John W. Cadbury, Joel Cadbury, Jr., David Scull, Jr., Caleb Wood, James E. Rhoads, Yardley Warner, Thomas Conard, Jonathan Evans, John W. Biddle, Henry Bettle, Marcellus Balderston, Thomas Scattergood.

Thos. Williamson, Samuel Bettle, Howard Yarnall, Charles Ellis, Samuel R. Shipley, Charles Evans, and George J. Scattergood, are appointed to nominate at the next stated meeting Friends to fill the respective offices.

REPORT.

TO THE FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA AND ITS VICINITY FOR THE RELIEF OF COLORED FREEDMEN.

THE Executive Board, in offering their fourth annual report desire to acknowledge the continuance of that providential guidance and support, which have been, we trust, since the organization of the Association, the earnest of our success.

Although much turbulence and political agitation have prevailed during the year, in the States wherein our operations have been chiefly conducted, we have not been materially hindered in our efforts to carry forward the objects approved by the Association.

Means having been liberally contributed, teachers were engaged, and supplies early purchased; and the season, throughout every department of our work, has been one productive of the most gratifying results.

During the year, contributions to the amount of \$35,488.58 have been received, of which \$15,549.58 were from Friends and others in Great Britain and Ireland, showing a total of contributions made to the funds of the Association since its organization of \$207,259.83.

In addition to the above large contribution from

abroad, there have been received through the Birmingham and Midland Freedmen's Aid Association, England, one hundred and eighty-four packages of the estimated value of \$32,415.12. Of these, one hundred and forty-seven packages, value \$27,710.62, contained ready-made garments, material, shoes, blankets, etc.

This large supply, with some stock remaining from last year, has enabled us to relieve a large amount of suffering, without encroaching on the funds in the treasury, further than to purchase a few hundred pairs of shoes, for which urgent appeals were received from every quarter. Feeling that to many of our contributors, the relief of physical suffering was our first duty, we have endeavored not only to respond to all appeals for assistance sent to us, but to search out other points where destitution prevailed, and send supplies to them also. It is gratifying to be able to state, that notwithstanding the very inclement winter, and the short crops of last season, there appears to have been less suffering the past year, than during any year of our organization.

The practice of having the garments made up previously to sending them to points of distribution, has not been followed. Sewing schools having been established at many places, all the material received has been sent to them to be cut out and made up therein, under the supervision of suitable persons.

During the severe winter weather, food and fuel were furnished to many who had no means of providing for themselves. Accounts from Yorktown, speak of over one hundred families in that district, thus receiving assistance.

The distribution of supplies of clothing, etc., has been as follows :

	Garments.	Material. Yards.	Shoes. Pairs.	Stockings. Pairs.	Blankets. Pairs.
Washington and Georgetown, D. C.,	3817	4705½	310	39	50
At or near Yorktown, Va.,	1577	2474	405	170	28
At Petersburg, Richmond, Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Winchester, etc., .	5864	454½	135	344	17
At Danville, Va., and Districts in N. C. under Superintendence of George Dixon ; also at Wilmington and Beaufort, N. C., .	6394	3189½	521	290	298
In South Carolina, on the coast and in the interior,	1149	808			
Natchez, Mississippi, . .	640				
New Smyrna, Florida, . .	756				
Making a total of	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 4em; margin-right: 10px;">{</div> <div> <div>393 Pairs of Blankets.</div> <div>20,197 Garments.</div> <div>11,631½ Yards of Material.</div> <div>1,371 Pairs of Shoes.</div> <div>843 Pairs of Stockings.</div> </div> </div>				

Great advantages resulting last year from the distribution of seeds, we have sent large quantities to our superintendents at Yorktown and Danville, and to other reliable persons in North Carolina, either to be given away or sold at low prices. The supplies thus furnished have been of great service, and will bring comfort to many families through the year.

In consequence of the increased opportunities for education in the District of Columbia, our schools in Washington and its neighborhood, were not reopened after the summer vacation. Their furniture was removed to North Carolina, and measures are now being taken to sell the real estate there, belonging to us.

Near Yorktown we purchased a tract of about eighty

acres, to which we removed the Mission House, school buildings, &c. Some difficulty, however, arising about the title, the purchase has not yet been completed; we believe, however, that it is in a fair way for settlement.

In addition to these two properties, the Association now holds the following, purchased mostly in order to obtain suitable locations for our school and mission houses:

At Greensboro', two lots, costing with improvements,					\$2,850
" Salisbury,	one lot,	"	"	"	960
" Lincolnton,	"	"	"	"	385
" Charlotte,	"	"	"	"	675
" Hillsboro',	"	"	"	"	1,200
" Raleigh,	"	"	"	"	1,100
" Goldsboro',	"	"	"	"	660

A portion of the property at Greensboro has been divided into acre lots and sold on easy terms to deserving and industrious freedmen. As soon as our title to the Yorktown property is complete, it is intended to dispose of the greater part of it in the same way. Three trustees have been appointed in whose names all the real estate of the Association is to be held.

About the first of ninth month last, schools were reopened, and have been held with reasonable regularity, at eighteen different stations, in Virginia and North Carolina, under care of two superintendents and forty-one teachers, of whom five were colored.

In addition to these we have paid the salaries of seven colored teachers in Maryland, under care of the Baltimore Association.

We have also paid to the "Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the

Colored People," five hundred dollars to be applied to the support of teachers in Kent and Sussex Counties in that State.

We estimate that not less than six thousand children and adults have attended our day, evening and First-day schools during the year.

At the last annual meeting a concern was expressed that suitable reading matter of a religious character should be furnished, under the belief that but a small part of our duty was accomplished, unless some such provision was made. The subject was referred to the Board, with directions to take such steps as they might think proper. It had already claimed the attention of the old Board, but measures were at once taken for an extensive and systematic distribution of the Holy Scriptures and the selection and preparation of suitable tracts.

Directions were sent to all of our teachers to supply each pupil who could read, at the approaching close of the schools, with a copy of the Testament and Psalms, or, when they thought best, with a Bible, and a sufficient number of copies was sent to them for that purpose. This direction was pretty generally carried out, and was, we believe, the occasion of much pleasant feeling both to the teachers and scholars.

Two tracts, "Marriage Honorable to All" and "Hannah Carson," and eight simple hymns, printed as leaflets in large type, have been stereotyped.

In addition to these, several tracts published by the Tract Association of Friends, the American Tract Society, and the American Sunday School Union, were after careful examination purchased. Some very valuable donations were also made to us. About 180,000

copies of the "British Workman" and "Band of Hope Review," illustrated weekly papers, were sent us by an interested friend in England. They have given great pleasure and instruction to those for whom they were intended.

We have also received large quantities of excellent and suitable tracts, carefully selected by some of our Board, from the "Tract Association of the Society of Friends," in London and from the "Dublin Tract Repository." Donations of Testaments and Psalms were also made to us by the "Bible Association of Friends in America" and the "Pennsylvania Bible Society." To both of these Associations, as well as the "Tract Association of Friends" of this city and the "American Sunday School Union," we are indebted for assistance in the way of large discounts from their regular prices.

A considerable number of Testaments, hymn books, tracts, etc., came to us in the boxes of clothing from England, making in the aggregate an important addition to our supply.

The distribution has not been confined to the field of labor occupied by our teachers. A supply of Bibles, Testaments and tracts has been kept in Washington, under the care of a reliable agent. Many thousands of tracts and hymn books and of the "British Workman" have been sent to the agents of the American Missionary Association, the Pennsylvania Freedmen Association, the Committees of other Yearly Meetings, and individuals laboring on their own account. In this way a large field has been covered.

The accounts received from these various quarters show a great eagerness on the part of the freedmen to

receive these little messengers of love; and they are the more valued because they are, so far, almost the only kind of reading accessible to them.

We have furnished a well-selected library to each of three of our most advanced schools, namely :

To Danville,	151 volumes.
“ Greensboro’,	166 “
“ Yorktown,	156 “

Sixty-nine volumes have been added by donation to the Danville Library. Great satisfaction was expressed by the teachers with this addition to their means of instruction, and it is believed good use is made of the books.

We have sent from our rooms as follows :

Reference Bibles,	36
12mo. “	956
12mo. Testaments and Psalms,	771
24mo. “ “	4,026
Gospels,	250

Total copies Holy Scriptures or parts thereof, 6,039

Tracts and Leaflets,	95,512
Juvenile Tracts and Small Books,	33,902
Sermon on the Mount,	600
Large Type Hymns,	25,050
Scripture and other Cards,	1,304

Total, 156,368

Hymn Books,	3,760
Bible Reader,	800
British Workman,	135,360
Pilgrim’s Progress,	93
Union Primer,	1,315
Scripture Questions,	894
Morning Dew,	2,800

This branch of our work has opened a wide field, one which will require the labor of years, and which will continue to yield rich harvests long after this Association has ended its distinctive labors.

The restoration of order and the reign of law will we hope soon remove the physical suffering, and provide for schools under State regulations.

Then will gradually open, as education spreads, the work of the voluntary laborer in supplying the craving for mental food, and counteracting the evil seed which will surely be widely sown.

The Society of Friends has always deeply felt the importance of encouraging the perusal of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books; as our organization is but a temporary one, rising up under an emergency, to pass away with the disturbances that made it necessary, may we not hope, that this work, commenced of necessity by us, may be taken up and more widely developed by others, when our labors have ceased.

To many laborers in the Lord's harvest it must seem at times as if they were but casting bread upon the waters, but while much of our work must appear to us of this nature, yet we have been permitted to see also evidence that the labor has not been in vain.

An undertaking involving such a variety of means and character for its development, and operating over a wide extent of territory necessarily at a distance from us, must of course bring with it trials and disappointments; these have, however, been trivial compared with the results.

While our Heavenly Father has put it into your hearts to give of your substance to this oppressed

people, He has graciously permitted us to be the dispensers of His bounty, and to us on your behalf have come the blessings of the poor, the naked, and the hungry.

We trust that we may continue to feel it a privilege to lay this cause before Him when we approach the mercy-seat, asking His guidance. Let us not forget as it is His work, to Him should be the praise.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Board,

SAMUEL R. SHIPLEY,

President Executive Board.

JOHN B. GARRETT,

Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, Fourth month, 9th, 1867.

The following notes of a visit made by direction of the Board, to our schools in Virginia and North Carolina, were also read at the annual meeting :

FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS' FREEDMEN ASSOCIATION.

Geographically, our circuit of schools in North Carolina, lies on or near the North Carolina Railroad, which extends from Goldsboro, its eastern terminus, to Charlotte on the west, a distance of about two hundred and sixty miles, and at Lincoln, on a branch of the same railroad, some forty miles farther west: thus affording ready access by rail to nearly all of them. This was designed in their original location.

Belonging to this circuit of schools, and under the same superintendence, is a large school, at Danville, in the southwestern part of *Virginia*, one hundred and eighty miles, by railroad, from Richmond, and connecting at some fifty miles distance, with the North Carolina Railroad at Greensboro. A similar circuit of schools contained, however, within a scope of twelve miles, under a separate superintendent, is maintained near Yorktown, Virginia.

We can assign no limits to which the benefits of aid, in educational and other humane efforts, could be profitably extended, if adequate means were at our command. It is an interesting fact, that the kind of help, viz., that of mental culture, which is likely to afford the most permanent advantage to the freedmen, is the very kind they most ardently desire. They weave into their devoutest prayers a petition for that elevation, and social influence of their race, which can only result from, and succeed their mental and moral culture.

Deeply as they feel the wrongs which the odious system of slavery has heaped upon their race for centuries past, I have not heard a single expression of a desire to resent them. But often do they utter benedictions on those who have sinned ignorantly. The present condition of the freedmen, within the limits of our operations, compared with that of one year ago, shows a marked improvement, as appears in greater

intelligence and increased comfort and order in neighborhoods. Numbers have purchased lots of ground, and built upon or otherwise improved them, thus escaping the unjust demands of four times an equivalent rent for houses.

On inquiry we found that, mostly, less physical suffering has been endured from a lack of food or clothing, during the past winter, than in that a year ago. It appears that the relief, the advice, and the instruction previously bestowed, have contributed to help the freedmen to ward off, in a degree, the sufferings incident to an unusually severe winter. The famine district of the South lies mostly a little below the field of our operations.

In this connection I deem it right to repeat my former conviction, that owing to the well-known peaceable principles of *Friends*, their habits of thrift and application to their own business, and their avoidance of all complications with matters foreign to their work, they enjoy a happy exemption from the unfriendly suspicions, and open opposition, to which many other religious professions are exposed in this work of charity. The conviction gains strength with me, that there is a widening field of usefulness South, in the way of domestic, mental, moral, and religious culture of the freedmen, and that Friends acting consistently with their principles are peculiarly qualified for the work.

The distribution of garden seeds among the freedmen, as extensively as our acquaintance reaches, has, I believe, been of peculiar advantage. The evidences of last season's culture prove the effect of this kind of charity, in promoting industry and forecast. Testimony was given us showing that the distribution of seeds last year, resulted in actually saving human life. The donation of garden and other seeds may seem a small matter, but when in addition to the healthful supplies derived from this source, we take into account the discipline of fencing, planting, tilling, and the patient waiting for the "early and the latter rain" which it involves, the influence must be great upon a people by nature and education remarkably improvident.

Associated with care in the distribution of seeds, is the needful information how to treat them, to save seeds from their products, thus learning to provide for their future, as

civilized life requires. In fact, it is made the duty of teachers and superintendents steadily to incorporate with their other labors, that of instruction in all the domestic expedients calculated to improve their means of honest subsistence, belonging to the sphere of life freedmen occupy.

In visiting the schools we pursued the following course as nearly as circumstances would allow. First, to discover by careful observation the attainments of the pupils—the method of instruction and discipline pursued; after which to take one or more classes, and illustrate by example, what is believed to be the best and most effectual mode of instruction and management of classes adapted to schools of freedmen, which are usually large, and the stage of progress so uniform, as to admit of ready and accurate classification.

Our plan in visiting was, at the close or opening of school, always in profound silence, impressively to read selected portions of Scripture, and according to ability to open the minds of the pupils to an understanding and feeling of its authority, and its teachings; to inculcate the duty and necessity of quiet, inoffensive manners and language, as not only right in itself, but as opening the door for their own benefit and enjoyment in the community.

We used our influence in favor of properly conducted first day schools for freedmen—showing their accordance with the religious uses of the day—promoting order, cleanliness, and promptitude in getting there in due season; but to be careful to inculcate only intelligible, pure, holy, and saving truths in the minds of the pupils. To a people in the transition state, these schools are among the powerful agencies in good hands of establishing due regard for religion, and the appropriate duties of the Sabbath.

With teachers we endeavored to heighten the sense of the responsibility attached to their position, that they “example the flock” rightly, losing no opportunity of impressing the minds of all, with proper notions of thrift, industry, and the duties of life; visiting them at their homes, as many do, and suggesting improved methods and habits, &c., as way opens.

In detailing our visit to the schools of the North Carolina circuit, I have, for the sake of simplicity, supposed it to

commence at Lincolnton, the most western, and proceed easterly to Goldsboro, the other or eastern limit.

The school at *Lincolnton* has been in operation a little over a year. At first it was held in a house rented for the purposes of worship by the freedmen. The tenure of this was, of course, uncertain, which was also the case at several other of our schools, as they had to be kept in buildings owned by the government, through permission of officers of the Freedmen's Bureau; the progress of closing the affairs of the war required all such property to be sold and appropriated. Accordingly lots of land eligibly located, of one acre or more each, were purchased at Lincolnton, Charlotte, Salisbury, Greensboro, and Goldsboro. Upon that at Lincolnton a house 80 feet \times 20 feet \times 15 feet, of good material and roofed with the best heart cypress shingles, well lighted, seated, &c., was erected, at a cost, including that of the ground, of \$385. In this the school has been kept during the present winter by an earnest, laborious teacher, but having over 135 pupils, he needs help. He conducts an evening school which is always attended only by such as cannot attend by day,—and a first day school. This is a locality where a more kindly feeling prevails towards our work; probably in consequence of the rural simplicity of the people, and its distance from centres of commerce.

Charlotte has a large colored population. The school-house is an exact counterpart of that just described at Lincolnton, but a better constructed building. It will seat three hundred pupils at least, besides having a large class-room. Here the principal teacher is a male, with two female helpers; registered pupils, 214. An evening school is taught, but no first day school as yet. They were encouraged to open one immediately. Within a few perches of the school, stands a home for the teachers. It is of ample dimensions, divided into the necessary apartments, chambers, dining-room, kitchen, etc., and though not elegant is good, and has the essentials of comfort. The aggregate cost of this property was \$675.

At *Salisbury* our school-house stands on a beautiful lot, close alongside of the late execrable Salisbury prison-ground. Happily the ground upon which the prison stood has been lately purchased for a cotton field (some twenty or forty acres), and denuded of all its appendages as a place of con-

finement for Union and State prisoners. The house is uniform in appearance with the two previously described, but larger, being 100 feet \times 30 feet \times 16 feet, well put up, a vestibule cut off of the front end for cloaks, etc., and off the remote end two apartments sufficiently large, together with a basement 30 feet square, for the accommodation of the teachers, and a family to provide for them. Enough room remains to seat 400 pupils in the central room. The house has a belfry put up at the freedmen's expense, and the front is to be painted by the same means. Registered pupils, 310; yet there are but two teachers, both men. Their night and first day schools appear both to be well attended. The colored population here is large, embracing many families well-to-do in the world, with some of whom we met, and one I visited in his own well-furnished parlor.

Several of these men made very interesting speeches in a public meeting held for us. These out-croppings of mind and ability sufficiently prove, with others that might be noted, the capacity of these people for culture and self-support.

At *Lexington*, a county town one mile from the station, is the school-house. It belongs to two colored carpenters, and is rented for the purposes of education, and is also used for a house of worship. Adjoining is an apartment for the occupation of the teachers. The school has been in operation much less than one year. The two teachers (both men) living some miles distant, do not conduct evening or first day schools. I admonished them so to modify their plans as to enable them to carry on both of these necessary adjuncts of a proper freedmen's school.

At *Thomasville*, so called (but it is over two miles from the railroad station), is kept a school which has been in operation a little over one year. The house, which we rent, is entirely too small for a school registering 90, though comparatively comfortable, and is heated by an open fire at one end, an arrangement quite common in North Carolina one year ago. One teacher, aided by his little daughter, manages this school. Some families in the neighborhood have suffered much the past winter. Measures have been taken to relieve them with clothing, etc.

Jamestown is a village on Deep River, one mile from the sta-

tion of that name. Our school there, of 49 pupils registered, is conducted by a young woman. The house is rented of her. The colored population is considerable here, but no night school is kept, though a first day school is sustained by the colored people themselves, with some help from their white neighbors.

Greensboro school, next in order in our eastern progress, is at Greensboro, the county town of Guilford County. This neighborhood being much depleted of its colored inhabitants, by emigration and other causes, has a smaller school now than last winter, being only 168 registered pupils, against fully double that number then. Yet it is believed there is population sufficient to sustain a large school, when they shall be more fully drawn out. The building, which together with the lot, cost (including thorough repairs) \$660, is 100 feet \times 30 feet. It has a vestibule, two ample class-rooms, and capacious hall sufficient to seat over 300 pupils comfortably, being well lighted and warmed. A house for the home of teachers stands a quarter of a mile south. Adjacent to and underlying this is a tract of thirty-five acres, with two good small houses, and two tenements upon it, purchased by the Association last year for \$2000. This has been divided by streets into acre lots having access to the main road. It is designed to sell these to orderly freedmen at cheap rates, giving time to pay by instalments, and to encourage their building homes upon them. Several of these lots were taken last year and improved, and more are being taken this year with the same object. The Association is now about placing eight or more comfortable tenements on these lots, of materials purchased, as above, of the United States Government, which will, when completed, be disposed of to freedmen, of correct habits (only) at prices much below their intrinsic value. This will, so far as it goes, relieve the freedmen from the exactions of exorbitant rents, and place at their disposal a considerable amount by which to improve the comfort of their families. The rates of rent now charged in North Carolina, are from \$50 to \$150 per annum, payable always monthly, in advance, for the humblest quarters. If the interest on the cost of a tenement purchased as above, reach \$15 a year, how soon may the entire cost be liquidated by the fund so created! I conclude that

benevolence could hardly be more wisely exercised than in this way, taking care, of course, to locate the dwellings within reach of ample remunerative labor. At this place are one male, and three female teachers. An evening and first day school are sustained. Greensboro has been the headquarters of the superintendent of the North Carolina mission until of late, when it was changed to *Danville*, Virginia, where, in buildings indefinitely granted by the United States Government, for the exclusive use of the Association, a large school has been kept nearly one and a half years; registered pupils, 412; conducted by a principal and two assistants, all females, with some colored help. The colored population here is large, exhibiting in many cases a commendable degree of moral, religious, and business character. Large first day schools and evening schools are maintained. Falling back to the North Carolina Railroad, the next school in order is,

Mebanesville, one mile from that station. It has been in operation about one year, heretofore in a rented house, but now in one built by the freedmen for the purpose. Registered pupils, over 100. Taught by one man and his little daughter. Adjacent is a tenement for their home, though his family live over sixty miles distant. His evening school and first day school are both well attended.

Hillsboro is the next school eastward, and is held in an inclosed, substantial stone fabric, purchased over a year ago by the Association, at a cost of \$1200. The school has been under the principalship mostly of a colored man. The colored population here is abundantly sufficient to sustain a large school. At this time the registered attendance is 215 pupils. Night school and first day school are maintained. A prejudice of rather unusual severity appears to obtain here against our work of humanity.

Chapel Hill is at once the name of our next school, and of the town where it stands. It has been open over half a year. Registered attendance, 248; having large night and first day school. The principal is a woman, assisted by her husband. The house is now rented; the freedmen are, however, putting up a new, capacious school and house of worship of their own, on a lot purchased for them by our Association, at a cost of \$50.

Hence we proceed to *Raleigh*, the capital of the State. Here the Association purchased at a cost of \$1100, a stone fabric capable of accommodating 200 pupils, in which is kept a school, designed ultimately for a normal school, but which has not yet fully assumed that character. It registers 46. When replenished with scholars of this character from other schools, as is expected will be the case, this number will be quite sufficient for one person to train as teachers. Raleigh is well supplied with freedmen's schools, and northern missionaries.

Sixty miles eastward we reach *Goldsboro*. During last summer the Association erected, on a lot of their own, in this town, a school-house 50 feet \times 30 feet, with buildings adjacent for mission house and class-room, &c., at a cost of \$660. This is one of the schools which limited means have induced us to abandon for the present, having let out the buildings to the American Missionary Association. The population here is numerous, and last year the school was managed by four teachers, and was one of our largest schools.

Our mission near *Yorktown*, Virginia, is confined to comparatively narrow limits. Its centre is a dwelling for superintendent and teachers, on a handsome plateau about one mile from that town. The mission-house itself is the house used two or three years ago for a store. It has been removed, remodelled, and had additions, &c., which make it quite a neat and comfortable residence. Its cheerful white walls, inclosures, planting, and the adjacent buildings, to accommodate the school and people with a house of worship, struck us as we approached the town in a little open cart (having made the overland route from Hampton in six hours, twenty-five miles), as quite a New England feature of the peninsula, not knowing what we saw. In those two buildings, probably distant thirty or fifty yards, respectively, from the mission-house, and in a direct line, are kept four schools, having a registered attendance of 324 pupils, besides first day and night schools; three schools are kept in one building, and one in the other, the latter being the house of worship. Distant about three-eighths of a mile is a large, and now unoccupied, school-house, near to which is a teacher's house, for its special accommodation. These all stand with two other tenements, on a tract of eighty acres of land purchased for the purpose. The colored popu-

lation hereaway consists mainly of the inhabitants of Acre-town and Slabtown, villages laid out with much taste and accuracy, for the contrabands during the war, by officers of the United States army.

By government aid they put up, with much uniformity, little tenements of the frailest kind, upon land supposed to be permanently confiscated, but which under the policy of the Executive at Washington, has fallen back to its former owners. Rent being now demanded for the land, and work very scarce, many of the tenants are being expelled from inability to pay. Some of them find distant homes, and the remainder, mostly cripples, or women and children, and infirm and aged persons, will be provided for, by the government, in the neighborhood. In the villages just named, the destitution during the severe part of last winter, was extreme, in the essentials of food, clothing and firewood. Much of the time and energy of our superintendent here had to be expended, and considerable means, in the relief of the suffering poor, plainly indicating the necessity that many of them should remove to better localities—a work demanding the care of intelligent, judicious advisers.

At *Williamsburg*, twelve miles west of Yorktown, is a school of 92 registered pupils, conducted in an African church by two teachers, a brother and sister, with evening and first day schools.

At *Fort Magruder*, about half way between those points, is a flourishing school of 136 registered pupils, with night and first day schools. In strange contrast with the late occupancy of this fort by soldiers, armed to the teeth, in defence of the peculiar institution of slavery, do we now see two young Quaker girls apparently defended only by their weakness and innocence, housing alone in a building inside the fort, and conducting a large school for freedmen just outside the walls!

In *Williams' District* is a school of 47 pupils, taught by a colored man, which, with those already named, make up the present circuit of Yorktown mission. We visited all these schools. They contain 599 pupils, which, with the North Carolina mission of 2105, gives a total of 2704 pupils, independent of evening and first day schools, which, if added, would probably swell the aggregate to over 4000.

Of our superintendents it may safely be said, that they are devoting themselves with much Christian disinterestedness to this work of benevolence:—and of the teachers, that they appear to be standing with fidelity at their several posts, endeavoring in the ability possessed, to unfold those benighted minds which have been crushed by bondage for ages. In the details of this visit my sympathies were afresh awakened on behalf both of superintendents and teachers, who turning their backs with becoming indifference upon the attractions of home and social life, are, from impulses of Christian duty, spending and being spent in the arduous labors of this noble charity. To such will apply with practical force the comforting declaration, “Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

When I call to mind the measure of religious care bestowed upon these untutored children and people;—the sound discipline to which they are subjected when under instruction;—the rational mental culture they are receiving;—the salutary lessons of domestic life and duty they enjoy:—I cannot doubt but that good effects will result from it; that the recipients of these favors and their race will one day see cause to bless the Providence that is now guiding the nation, and the events of their lives.

(Signed)

THOMAS CONARD.

WEST GROVE, PENNA., 3d mo. 11th, 1867.

*To "The Friends' Association of Philadelphia and its Vicinity,
for the Relief of Colored Freedmen."*

THE TREASURER REPORTS :

Balance on hand 4th mo. 14, 1866,	\$11,524 87
Contributions from friends and others	
in this country,	\$19,939 00
Contributions from Great Britain and	
Ireland,	15,549 58
Total contributions,	35,488 58
Returns from agents, &c., including old store debts	
collected,	520 62
Total,	<u>\$47,533 97</u>

PAYMENTS.

Expenditures under direction of Instruction Com- mittee, including salaries and maintenance of teachers, cost of property, repairs, rents, and incidentals connected with the missions,	29,238 91
Bibles, Testaments, Tracts, and School-Books,	4,821 61
Garden seeds,	1,155 90
Boots and shoes, and special contributions for relief of physical suffering,	1,774 08
Orphan House at New Orleans,	250 00
" " Helena, Ark., by request of donors,	662 78
Printing and circulating Annual Report and other documents,	460 55
Freight and other incidental expenses,	1,160 38
	<u>\$39,524 21</u>
Leaving a balance in my hands of eight thousand and nine $\frac{76}{100}$ dollars,	<u>\$8,009 76</u>

RICHD. CADBURY, *Treasurer.*

PHILADELPHIA, 4th mo. 12, 1867.

We have examined the above account of Richard Cadbury, Treasurer, and compared the payments with his vouchers, and find it correct, there being a balance in his hands due the Association of eight thousand and nine $\frac{76}{100}$ dollars.

CALEB WOOD,
ANTHONY M. KIMBER.

PHILADELPHIA, 4th mo. 12, 1867.